

In the specification, please amend, page 1, second paragraph, lines 6 through 10 as follow:

The invention is in the field of the manufacture and further processing of pouches filled ^{A1} filled with (animal foods. The previously manufactured tubular pouches are filled in special filling and sealing mechanisms with an ingredient or component and are then closed and sealed and subsequently usually undergo a sterilization before the finished products are packed.

Amend page 2, fourth and fifth paragraphs, lines 16 through 25:

^{A2} It is appropriate for the pouches to be gripped in clamping manner, i.e., for the gripper mechanism to have for each pouch to be picked up a pair of gripper jaws, where at least one is movable or has a movable element or between which a longitudinal side of a pouch can be gripped in clamping manner. Alternatively, the longitudinal sides of the pouches can be engaged by vacuum.

Preferably, the pouches are gripped in an orientation in which a main extension plane containing the lateral edges of the pouches is inclined to the vertical by an angle of less than 60°. The main extension plane plain is preferably arranged in a substantially vertical manner. Appropriately, the longitudinal side on which each pouch stands is horizontally oriented.

PATENT

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In the drawings please add:

Figure 5 is a diagrammatic representation of one method of gripping pouches.

Please amend the Detailed Description of the Invention as follows:

Page 3, fifth paragraph, lines 8 through lines 14.

With initial reference to Figure 1, the construction of a known pouch, e.g., for animal foods will be explained. The pouch 10 essentially comprises two lateral films 1, 2 with a rectangular base shape and which receive between them in their lower or bottom area a U-shaped folded bottom film 3. An upper sealing seam 4, lateral sealing seams 5 and 6, as well as two bottom sealing seams 7 are used for forming a closed pouch interior and a reinforced bottom section, which apart from an increased pouch capacity has the advantage that the pouch is stable in the filled state.

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Page 3, paragraph 8, lines 24 through 26 and continued on page 4, lines 1 through 5.

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Figure 4 diagrammatically shows such a comb-like gripper mechanism 20, which has a row of finger-like gripper elements 22. As shown in Figure 4, for each of the pouches 10 held in a carrier mechanism (not shown in a detailed manner) there is a pair of gripper elements 22, which are appropriately fitted to a gripper carrier 25. The gripper elements 22 (or in each case one pair) are movable in the direction of arrows 28 and may be operated by compressed air. Alternatively in one or two gripper elements of a pair is an extensible piston or some other clamping element is provided to grasp the lateral edge of a pouch to be picked up in a claiming manner. This is shown in Figure 5 where extensible pistons 30 move in the direction of arrows 32.